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FRA-2000-7357-47

# Prescription and OTC Drug Use in The Railroad Industry



# History

- Railroad Rule “G”--- Railroad self-policing
- Part 219--- FRA Regulation
- Part 219 and Part 40--- DOT Regulation
- Transportation Employee Omnibus Drug Testing Act of 1991--- Congressional Mandate

# FRA Post-Accident Test History

YEAR	# EVENTS	# TESTED	# POSITIVES
1987	179	770	42 (39 D - 3A)
1988	178	682	41 (38D - 3A)
1989	161	607	34 (18 D - 6A)
1990	149	534	3 (3D - 1A)
1991	157	552	8
1992	109	332	7 (6D - 2A)
1993	128	403	8 (6D - 2A)
1994	115	294	7 (5D - 2A)
1995	82	225	2 (2D - 0A)
1996	73	197	1 (1D - 0A)
1997	86	240	3 (1D - 2A)
1998	68	153	4 (4D - 0A)
1999	80	200	2 (2D - 0A)
2000	91	255	5 (5D - 0A)
2001	82	210	3 (3D - 0A)

# Railroad Post-Accident Testing

- 1,738 events in last 14 years ✓
- 5,644 railroad employees tested for drug classes ✓
- Specimens taken:
  - Urine ✓
  - Blood ✓
  - Tissue (fatalities) ✓
  - <sup>Also</sup> Breath

} Taken  
for Living & dead

# Review of Cases with Positive Drug Test Results

- 1996 – 2001, 481 qualifying events
- 1,255 employees tested
- Results
  - 16 Cases involving non-authorized drug use (1.3 %)
  - 30 Cases involving authorized drug use (2.4 %)

# Cases Involving Unauthorized Drug Use

- ✓ ● Illegal Drugs (12)
  - Marijuana, 8 cases (.67%)
  - Cocaine, 4 cases (.33 %)
- ✓ ● Legal Drugs (4)
  - Amphetamine and/or methamphetamine, 2 cases (.17 %)
  - Barbiturates, 2 cases (.17 %)

# Cases Involving Authorized Drug Use

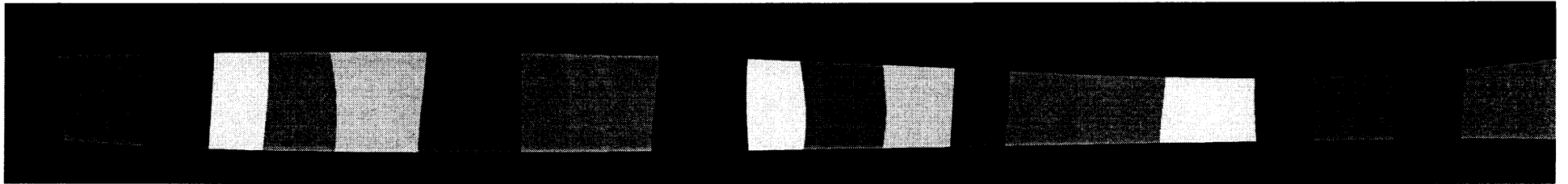
- Authorized Prescriptions Used while on-duty, 8 cases (0.7%)
  - Benzodiazepine, 4 cases
  - Amphetamine, 2 cases
  - Codeine, 2 cases
- Medications Administered after the event, 22 cases (1.8 %)
  - Morphine, 19 cases
  - Codeine, 1 case
  - Benzodiazepines/Codeine, 1 case
  - Pentobarbital (barbiturate), 1 case

## 49 CFR Part 219.103

- ✓ ● Does not prohibit use of a controlled substance IF: medical practitioner has made a good faith judgment, with notice of duties/history/all drugs being used, and use as prescribed is consistent with safety.
- Does not restrict the railroad from requiring that employees notify the railroad before use.



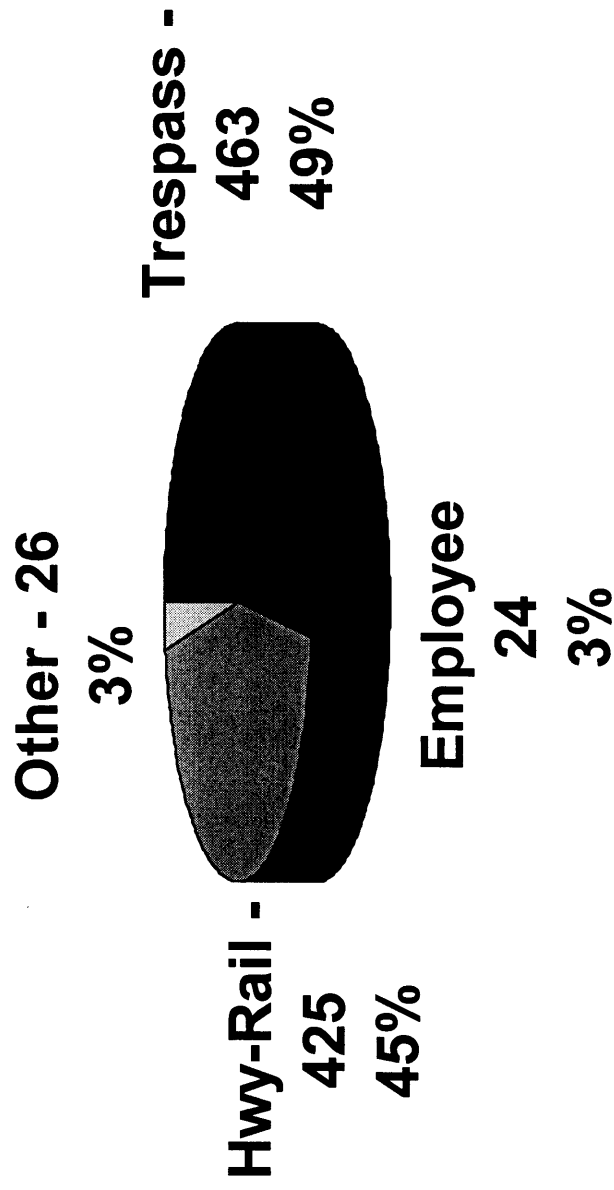
# Crossing Safety & Trespass Prevention Update



RSAC

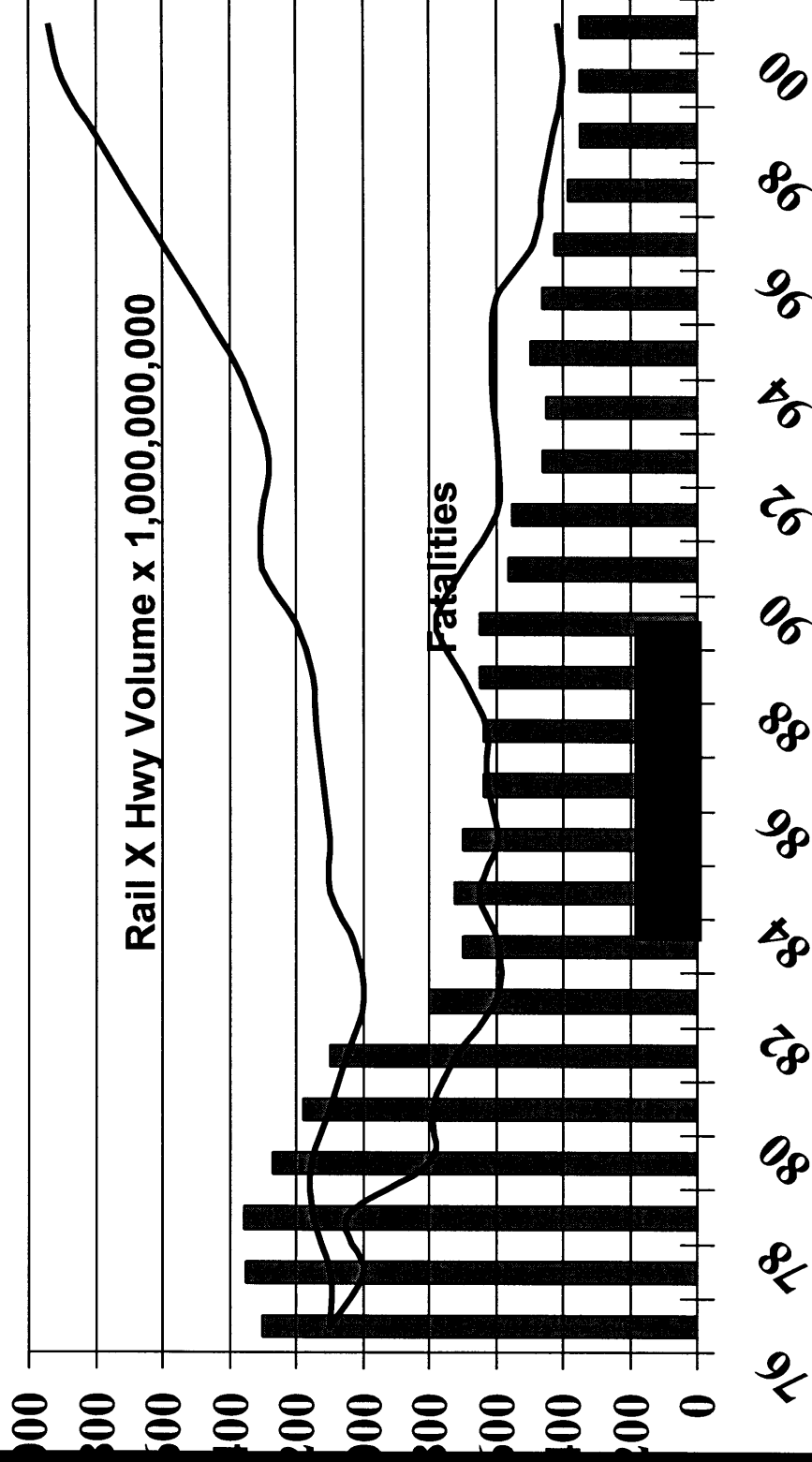
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# Rail Fatalities in 2000



# Crossing Collision History

## 1976 - 2000

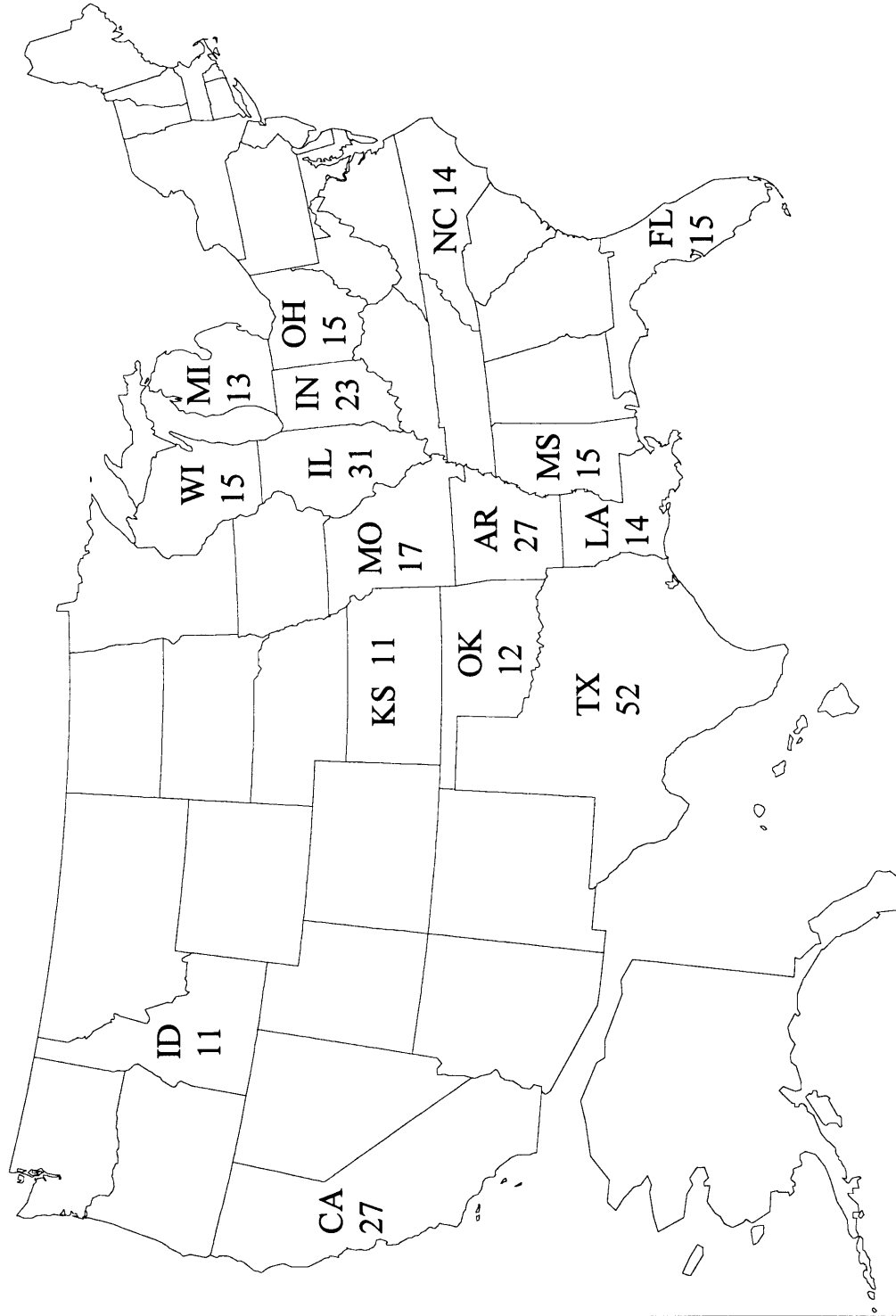


# Where Collisions Occur

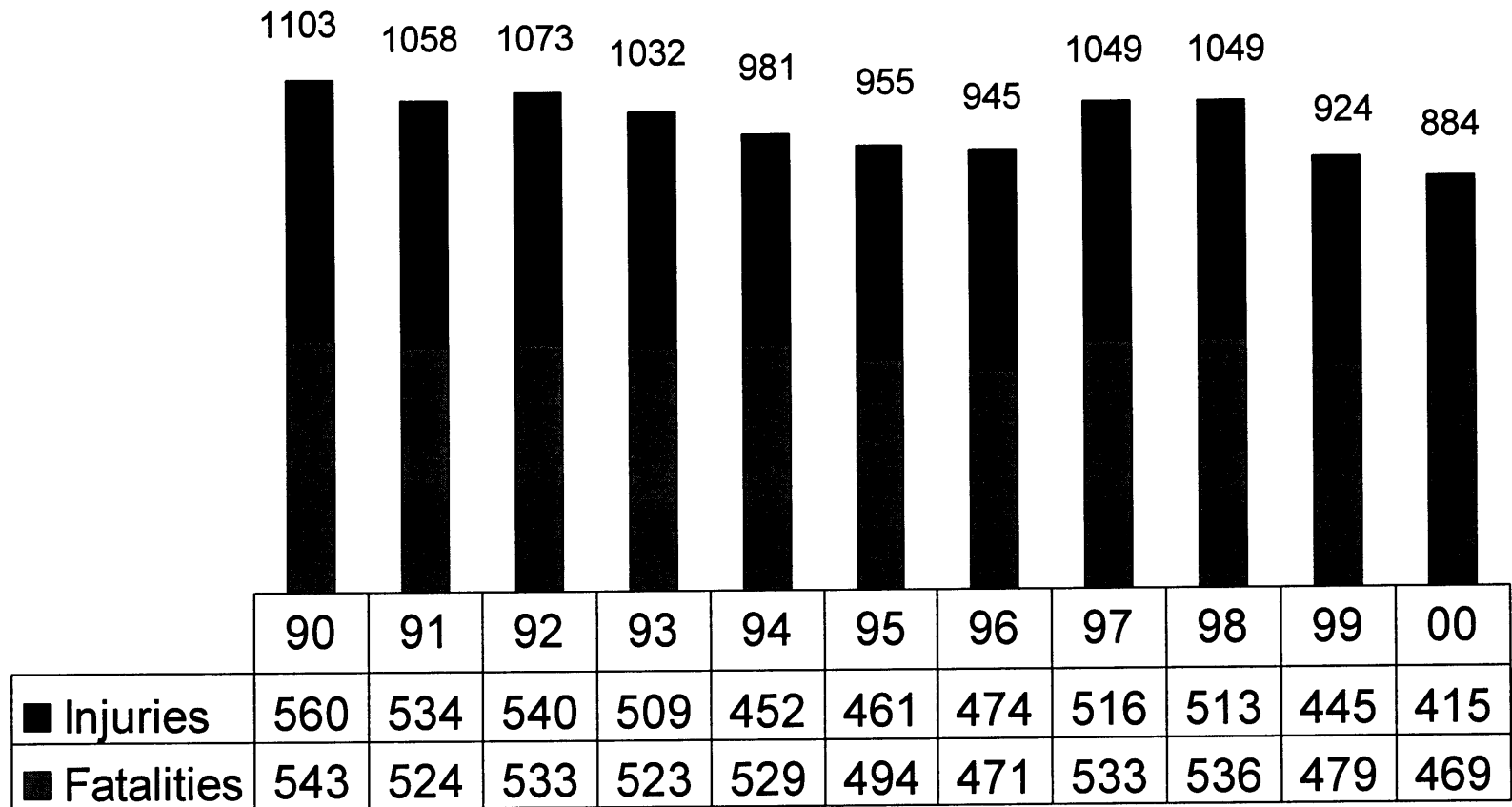
1998 - 2000

Device	% Collisions	% Crossings
Gates	25.3%	22.1%
Flashing Lights	23.0%	17.4%
STOP Signs	10.6%	7.5%
Crossbucks	37.1%	46.0%

# 15 States With Most Fatalities At Crossings in 2000



# Trespasser Casualties



# Comparison – 00 to 01

	2000	2001	% Change
GX Incidents	3108	2934	-5.3
GX Fatalities	395	368	-6.8
Trespass Fatalities	432	462	6.9



# Safety Advisory 2002-01

- Address the importance of clear, precise, unambiguous railroad safety procedures
- Ensure the safety of highway-rail grade crossing warning systems or wayside signal systems that are temporarily removed from service for
- purposes of testing, inspection or repair.



# Background

- FRA requires “fail safe” operation
- Several serious highway-rail grade crossing collisions and numerous false proceed signal failures have occurred in the past three years due to human error failures.
- Total number is very small but even 1 is too many.



# FRA's Concern

- Failure to properly notify approaching trains that grade crossing warning devices or wayside signal systems have been temporarily removed from service
- Failure to properly restore these safety systems back into service.
- Last 3 years – 5 serious crossing collisions of these nature



# FRA Recommendation

- Establish instructions for the temporary deactivation of signals that
  - How to authorize
  - Who can authorize
  - Protocols for notification
  - Methods for safe train movements
  - Operational testing after work
  - Notifying that work is complete and signals back in service



# FRA Recommendation

- Provide periodic training on protocol
- Issued Jan. 16, 2002



# Updates

- Train horn rule
- Potential reflector rule
  - Benefit-cost study into Federal Register (Oct. 26, 2001)
  - FRA-1999-6689, Notice No. 2]
- Technical Working Group report
- High Risk Crossing in Each State

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